



December 2013

## KIDS' CLUB

### Newsletter from the Director

#### December Calendar

- 4         $\frac{3}{4}$  Day for all public schools.
- 11        $\frac{3}{4}$  Day for all public schools.
- 18        $\frac{3}{4}$  Day for all public schools.
- 23/24/25       KIDS' CLUB is closed for the Christmas holiday.
- 26-31    December Vacation: KIDS' CLUB is open 7:30 AM–6:00 PM vacation week. Children must **bring a lunch and a beverage each day**. Breakfast is available until 8:30 AM and snack will be provided at 3:00 PM each day. Payments and any schedule changes for January must be made by 12/25/13. Drop-In sign-up for January opens at 1:00 PM 12/26/13.

#### January Calendar

- 1        KIDS' CLUB is closed New Year's Day.
- 8         $\frac{3}{4}$  Day for all public schools.
- 15        $\frac{3}{4}$  Day for all public schools.
- 17       No-School Teacher Workshop Day - KIDS' CLUB open 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM. All children must **bring a lunch and a beverage**. Snack will be provided at 3:00 PM.
- 20       KIDS' CLUB is closed for MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY.
- 22        $\frac{3}{4}$  Day for all public schools.
- 29        $\frac{3}{4}$  Day for all public schools.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING DECEMBER VACATION WEEK?

There is still plenty of room in our upcoming vacation week program. Please contact the KIDS' CLUB office to sign up. The more the merrier!! The themes for this week are as follows:

**Thursday** - Pajamas and Pancakes Day: Join us for breakfast and wacky hair!

**Friday** - Winter Wonderland Day: Movie "Ice Age" (PG), We'll make snow cones!

**Monday** - Boston Teams Day: Red Sox, Bruins, Celtics, Patriots, hot dog lunch provided (chips, juice and ice cream sandwiches).

**Tuesday** - Celebrating the New Year! Let's make Chinese Food!



## Winter Policy Reminders

**DELAYED OPENING OF SCHOOL:** If there is a delayed opening of the schools, the KIDS' CLUB Before School program will open as follows: 1 hour delayed opening of school – KIDS' CLUB opens at 8:30 AM. 90 minute or 2-hour delay - KIDS' CLUB will open at 9 AM. Drop-In space may be available. Families must call the morning of for availability. The Monday Kindergarten program will begin at the usual time (9 AM). Because KIDS' CLUB opens on these days, there are no refunds for Scheduled or Drop-In Care.

**SNOW DAYS:** When school is closed due to snow **KIDS' CLUB will be closed** as well. If your child is scheduled for care on such a day, you will receive a credit on the following month's tuition bill.

**EARLY CLOSING OF SCHOOL:** When schools are dismissed early due to weather, KIDS' CLUB will inform parents via e-mail and phone calls to any changes in our normal schedule. In addition, any such change will be put on our outgoing phone message on 781-275-5427. Factors in making this decision include maintaining legal staff/child ratios and keeping staff and families safe when commuting to and from KIDS' CLUB. There are no refunds for Scheduled or Drop-In Care on these days.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **CHILLY WEATHER IS UPON US!**

With the arrival of winter weather, we all need to remember to bundle up our children before they leave the house each day. Outdoor play is extremely beneficial for growing children and we provide the opportunity for your children to be outside daily, even during the winter months. Mittens, hats, snow pants, and boots that will keep them warm and dry are essential for outdoor play. Often we find that children arrive without the **outdoor clothing and well fitting boots** necessary to spend important play time outside. We have a very limited amount of used clothing items for the children to borrow and these items are quickly loaned out on most days. As a result, many children must go without.

Also, we strongly urge our families to send along an extra change of **indoor clothing** for their child, including socks and underwear, to be stored in their cubby "just in case". As always, be sure to **label your child's items** for easy identification as they sometimes become misplaced.

## **CHILDREN'S CELLPHONE POLICY REMINDER**

The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, is urging each child care program to establish a policy to address the use of cell phones by children during program hours. Please familiarize your family with our policy below. Feel free to contact the KIDS' CLUB office with any questions.

### Children's Cell Phone Policy:

For reasons of privacy and for the safety of all attending KIDS' CLUB, the use of personal cell phones by children, including text messaging, camera features and any other visual or audio recording device is not allowed at KIDS' CLUB. Children who bring cell phones to KIDS' CLUB are expected to store them in a backpack, book bag, or cubby. If a child wishes to call their parent from their cell phone, they must do so with staff permission and from the main office. Children who do not adhere to this policy will have their cell phone confiscated by the KIDS' CLUB staff to be returned to a parent upon their arrival at the end of the day. Parents needing to speak to their child(ren) during KIDS' CLUB operational hours are asked to call the office at (781) 275-5427 and they will be put in touch with their child. As always, any child that wishes to speak to his/her parent is welcome to ask permission from a staff member who will see that they are allowed to call their parent.



.....

## **A GENTLE REMINDER TO KIDS' CLUB FAMILIES**

Informing your child's school of a change in your child's dismissal routine should be followed up with a call to KIDS' CLUB. The public schools do not contact KIDS' CLUB with such information and your call to us, before the children arrive by bus, is required in order to avoid a \$5.00 No-Call fee.

## **KIDS' CLUB COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS**

KIDS' CLUB will continue to accept items for the *Town of Bedford Food Pantry* in an effort to help replenish their supply for the holidays. Juice boxes, cereal, and canned goods are always welcome! Thank you for your kind donations!

KIDS' CLUB will also be collecting donations for the *Billerica Cat Coalition* during the next few months. Cat food, gently used towels, cat toys, and the like can be given to Ms. Charlotte or put in the "Kitty Basket" on the foyer table. Thanks to all those who contribute to this worthy cause.

## **A HOLIDAY THANK YOU**

So many of our families and friends have generously provided donations of all kinds during recent months. As a self-supporting program, operating in the currently challenging economic environment, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all of those who have contributed to KIDS' CLUB.

**KIDS' CLUB WISHES ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON !!!**